

1. **Temporary Assistance (TA) Child Care** – is available to families in receipt of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Safety Net Assistance (SNA) who need child care while they are participating in a work activity or an approved school or training program or are working.

NOTE: If this applies to you, you do NOT need to complete a separate application to receive a child care subsidy. (EXCEPTION: Grandparents or other non-parent guardians who are receiving temporary benefits as “Representative Payees” on behalf of the child(ren) they are caring for need to apply for child care services. In such cases, only the child(ren)’s income is considered and only the child(ren) is(are) counted when determining family size.)

- If you are participating in a **work activity or an approved school or training program**, speak with your Suffolk County Department of Labor (DOL) worker about your child care needs. Your DOL worker will send a referral to the DSS Child Care Unit to initiate the process. You will still need to submit any supporting documentation that the Child Care Unit requests of you in order for the Child Care Unit to determine your eligibility and child care needs.
 - If you are **employed**, please call the Child Care Unit at (631) 854-3349. The Child Care worker will let you know if any additional information is required and determine whether you are eligible to receive subsidized child care services.
2. **Child Care in Lieu of Temporary Assistance** – is available when a family would otherwise be eligible for, or are recipients of, temporary assistance benefits and are employed but choose to receive child care subsidies in lieu of temporary assistance benefits for such period of time as the family continues to be eligible for temporary assistance.
 - **If you are already in receipt of Temporary Assistance (TA)** and wish to close your TA case and receive subsidized child care instead, inform your Social Service’s center worker. The DSS center worker will send a referral to the Child Care Unit to initiate the process. You will still need to submit any supporting documentation that the Child Care Unit requests of you in order for the Child Care Unit to determine your eligibility and child care needs.
 - **If you are NOT already in receipt of Temporary Assistance (TA)** but believe you would qualify for a child care subsidy in lieu of Temporary Assistance, you will need to report to a DSS Center so that DSS can determine your eligibility for Temporary Assistance. [Click here](#) to locate the nearest DSS Center.

If you are determined to be eligible for Temporary Assistance but choose to receive a childcare subsidy instead, your DSS center worker will make a referral to the Child Care Unit to initiate the process. You will still need to submit any supporting documentation that the Child Care Unit requests of you in order for the Child Care Unit to determine your eligibility and child care needs.

3. **Transitional Child Care:**

- **Families who were receiving Temporary Assistance (TA), but became ineligible when their income increased due to employment or child support** and have received Temporary Assistance in three of the six months prior to their TA case closing are eligible for Transitional Child Care for up to 12 months (from the date the TA case closed) while they are employed.
- **Families who are receiving Temporary Assistance (TA) and are employed or in an approved non-temporary assistance (NTA) activity and request to have their TA case closed**, are eligible for Transitional Child Care for up to 12 months (from the date the TA case closed) so long as they remain employed or in an approved NTA activity.

To be eligible for Transitional Child Care, the family's income cannot exceed 200% of the State Income Standard based on their family size.

4. **Protective/Preventive Services Child Care:** may be authorized by the assigned Case Manager for children with active child protective or preventive service cases when child care is mandated as part of the service plan to protect the child or enable the parent(s)/caretaker(s) to participate in required services. Protective/preventive child care services may also be provided to employed foster parent(s) who need child care services for their foster children while they are working.

- Regulations require that families receiving child care as part of a preventive services case MUST use a child care provider that is contracted with the Department of Social Services.
- Families receiving child protective/preventive services child care are only eligible for these services during the period their child protective/preventive services case remains open and the assigned Case Manager determines child care is needed.
- There are no financial eligibility criteria for protective/preventive services child care subsidies.

5. **Non-Temporary Assistance (Low Income) Child Care:** is available to families who have an approved reason for needing child care and whose gross monthly income is at or below Suffolk County's Income Eligibility Standard. Approved reasons for needing child care include:

- Employment earning at least minimum wages
- Attendance at an approved school or vocational program and working at least 17.5 hours per week earning at least minimum wage
- A teen parent (under age 20) attending high school;
- A family needing child care because the parent/caretaker is unable to care for the child due to:
 - their physical or mental incapacitation
 - participation in an approved substance abuse program or domestic violence service program

- being homeless and needing child care to search for housing
- having an emergency situation of short duration or family duties away from home.